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REPRESENTATION

ON THE

LEGISLATIVE UNION

OF THE

PROVINCES OF UPPER AND LOWER CANADA,

BY THE

CONSTITUTIONAL ASSOCIATION

OF THE

CITY OF MONTREAL.

REVISED

THE LEGISLATIVE UNION OF THE PROVINCES

OF THE CANADIAN CONFEDERATION

It is the duty of the Legislature to provide for the good government of the Province, and to secure the peace, order, and good government of the same. It is the duty of the Legislature to provide for the education of the people, and to secure the highest quality of education for all. It is the duty of the Legislature to provide for the health and safety of the people, and to secure the highest quality of health and safety for all. It is the duty of the Legislature to provide for the welfare of the people, and to secure the highest quality of welfare for all.

It is the duty of the Legislature to provide for the economic development of the Province, and to secure the highest quality of economic development for all. It is the duty of the Legislature to provide for the social development of the Province, and to secure the highest quality of social development for all. It is the duty of the Legislature to provide for the cultural development of the Province, and to secure the highest quality of cultural development for all. It is the duty of the Legislature to provide for the environmental development of the Province, and to secure the highest quality of environmental development for all.

It is the duty of the Legislature to provide for the international relations of the Province, and to secure the highest quality of international relations for all. It is the duty of the Legislature to provide for the domestic relations of the Province, and to secure the highest quality of domestic relations for all. It is the duty of the Legislature to provide for the local relations of the Province, and to secure the highest quality of local relations for all. It is the duty of the Legislature to provide for the global relations of the Province, and to secure the highest quality of global relations for all.

CIRCULAR

ON

THE LEGISLATIVE UNION OF THE PROVINCES, &c.

THE Constitutional Association of the city of Montréal, beg leave to request your assistance and support, in furtherance of the Legislative Union of the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada ; a measure, which under all the accumulated evils of the present political state of Lower Canada, is conceived to be the only remedy by which these evils can be overcome, the prosperity of the Provinces secured, and their ultimate connexion with the Parent State preserved.

By the Treaty of Peace in the year 1763, Canada, conquered by the British arms, was ceded in full sovereignty and right to His Britannic Majesty, by His most Christian Majesty, and the French inhabitants who chose to remain in the country, became subjects of Great Britain, and were secured in the enjoyment of their property and possessions, and the free exercise of their religion.

By the Royal Proclamation of the 7th October, 1763, the ceded Territory was erected into a Provincial Government, denominated the Government of Quebec, and a Governor and Council were appointed by Letters Patent, for the administration of the affairs of the Colony, who continued to discharge this duty until the year 1774. In that year the Act of the 14th Geo. III. c. 83,

was passed, by which extensive privileges were conferred upon the French Canadians—the free enjoyment of their ancient laws, and the full exercise of their religion, as they both existed previous to the conquest of the Province, were secured to them; the introduction of the criminal law of England preserved them from the arbitrary oppressions to which they had been subjected under their former Government, and their eligibility to seats in the Provincial Council, thereby constituted for the affairs of the Province of Quebec, communicated to them the exercise of very important rights as British subjects.

In the year 1790, the Act of the 31st Geo. III. c. 31, was passed, by which still more extensive benefits and advantages, and the most valuable political privileges were conferred upon the French Canadians. By this Act, the Province of Quebec was divided into two separate Provinces; a Constitution in all essential particulars similar to that of the Parent State was granted to both; and His Majesty, with the advice and consent of a Legislative Council, constituted by his Royal appointment, and a representative Assembly, elected by the Colonists themselves, were empowered to make laws, for the peace, welfare, and good government of the Provinces.

To render this privilege applicable to the existing state of the Colony, no real or pecuniary qualification was required for a seat, either in the Council or Assembly, whilst that of the electors was established at so low an amount, as almost to extend the electoral privilege to a system of universal suffrage.

From the collection of the Crown duties, levied in the Province in virtue of the Act of the 14th Geo. III. c. 88, provision was made for defraying the expenses of the administration of justice, and the support of the civil Government, thereby securing the independence of the Judiciary, and the necessary support of the Executive Government. In addition to these repeated benefactions, the Imperial Government, induced by the strongest desire of promoting the prosperity of the Colony, subsequently passed the

Imperial Act of the 1st and 2d Will. IV. c. 23, by which the application of the Crown duties above mentioned was unreservedly and without qualification placed at the disposal, and intrusted to the control and discretion of the Provincial Legislature.

Thus by the operation of these Acts, the French Canadians attained a degree of liberty entirely unknown to them under the Government of France, they were admitted to a participation in all the rights of British subjects, secured in the full exercise of their religion, protected in their persons by the most perfect system of criminal law, guaranteed in the enjoyment of their ancient and accustomed Civil Jurisprudence, intrusted with the authority of making and consenting to their own laws, for the peace, welfare and good government of the Province, and finally, protected from the imposition of taxes by the Parent State.

It might have been reasonably expected, that benefits so multiplied and concessions so munificent, would have led to a gradual approximation of the French Canadians, in disposition and character, to their fellow subjects of British origin, until at last every sensible difference between them should have entirely ceased, and the Colonists of both races have been united into one people, animated with a sincere and ardent attachment to the Constitution thus liberally bestowed upon them.

It must also be observed, that the proclamation of the 7th October, 1763, urged the subjects of His Majesty's Kingdoms and of the then Colonies in America, to avail themselves, with all convenient speed, of the great benefits and advantages to accrue to their commerce, manufactures and navigation, from the extensive and valuable acquisitions in America, secured to the British Crown by the Treaty of Peace above mentioned; invited them to become settlers in the newly acquired Province; and exhorted them to confide in the Royal protection, for their enjoyment of the benefit of the laws of the Realm of England.

Impelled by this powerful attraction, and trusting to the faith of the Royal pledge, British capitalists and British emigrants have

established themselves in the Province, and the number of the first settlers was greatly augmented by additions from those loyal subjects of the State, who, during the American Revolutionary war, had sacrificed everything in support of the laws and Constitution of the Mother Country, to which they were so warmly attached.

The full enjoyment of British Constitutional liberty, and the gradual and progressive increase in the resources and wealth of the Colony, have constantly been the principal subjects of the anticipations of these British and loyal settlers, and among the measures to be adopted for obtaining these desirable objects, none have appeared to them to be more probable of success, than the introduction of foreign capital, the improvement of the natural advantages of the country, and the affording of every facility to emigrants from the British Islands, to form settlements in the Province; but above all, they esteemed the continued connexion of Lower Canada with the Parent State, and the preservation of her Constitution, to be the most certain, as they felt assured, that they were the most powerful means which could be adopted for securing the increasing prosperity and advantage of the Colony.

The experience of the past has, however, most lamentably demonstrated the entire fallacy of these anticipations: whatever might have been the political motives of the Imperial Government, in sanctioning the division of the Province of Quebec into two separate Governments, it cannot be denied, that the chief result of that measure has been, the fostering in Lower Canada, of a majority of her population, essentially foreign to their fellow subjects of British origin in both Provinces, in language, laws, institutions, habits and prejudices, the rendering of the condition of the two races entirely distinct, and the creating of a great and increasing feeling of irritation between them, which, if not checked by their entire amalgamation, must, at no distant period, be the occasion of enmity so inveterate, as only to be overcome by the horrors of civil war.

It must be apparent, that the sacrifice of the interests of the British population, and the obstruction of all internal improve-

ment, are the only means by which the separate views of the French Canadians can be accomplished. In confirmation of this conclusion, it is only necessary to advert to the Provincial Statute 9th Geo. IV. c. 73, by which the Counties of the Province have been divided in such a manner, as to neutralise, if not entirely to destroy, the electoral privileges of the voters of British origin, by swamping them amidst the greater numbers of the French Canadians; in the defeated attempt of the political leaders of the latter, to deprive the British inhabitants of the cities, in possession in co-partnership of leasehold property, of a right of voting for Members of the Assembly; in their determined aversion to the establishment of Register Offices, by which the introduction of foreign capital is prevented, and the security of mortgages is rendered ineffectual; in their continuance of the oppressive and vexatious tenure of the Feudal Law, by which real estate is greatly depreciated in value, and the circulation of capital invested in it, impeded; in their constant hostility to every measure tending to facilitate the settlement of the Province, by emigration from the British Islands; in their partial and unjust taxation of settlers, upon their arrival from the Mother Country, and them only; in their unfounded claims to the management and disposal of the Crown Lands, by which the Royal sense and approbation of the conduct and bravery of the servants of the State, and their settlement in the country, would be alike frustrated; in their unceasing efforts to destroy the Charter of the British American Land Company, and to prevent the increase of a British population in the Eastern Townships of the Province; in their avowed determination to procure the repeal of the Imperial Statutes, by which a change of Seigniorial Tenure can be obtained, and to which the inhabitants of those Townships have been indebted for the entire confirmation, and the secure enjoyment of the English Civil Law; in the injurious system of temporary legislation, adopted by the Assembly, and reluctantly, though compulsorily, agreed to by the other branches of the Legislature; in the absolute de-

pendance of the Judiciary and Executive, for support, upon the Assembly and the personal feelings of its Members, by the annual votes of that branch of the Legislature ; and in the persevering and unwearied endeavours of the French Canadian political leaders to destroy the Constitution of the Province, and to introduce a Republican form of Government, by rendering the Legislative Council elective.

These effects of a spirit so violently and pertinaciously opposed to the feelings, interests, and desires of the inhabitants of Lower Canada of British origin, have produced an inevitable necessity for uniting the Provinces, a necessity originating in permanent and essential evils, which cannot be remedied by any less comprehensive measure.

Nor can it be concealed, that the existing dissimilarity between the two Provinces, in their laws, institutions, and customs, as well as in their general feeling of attachment to the Parent State, must, if not prevented by their Legislative union, lead to consequences, alike disastrous with those anticipated as likely to affect the inhabitants of the two races in Lower Canada.

The geographical situation of the two Provinces, and the relations which have been established between them by nature, afford but one outlet to the sea, and one channel of communication with the Mother Country ; that outlet is in the possession of Lower Canada, and all the revenue arising from the foreign trade of the Provinces, is collected and retained by her, subject to a quadrennial division by Arbitrators, indifferently appointed by the Executive Government of each Province. It must be admitted, that this is the best system of apportionment which could be devised under present circumstances ; but it must be allowed at the same time, that perfect satisfaction to both Provinces cannot be permanently secured, because Upper Canada must, at an early period, claim a more correct and accurate mode of estimating her consumption of dutiable goods, than comparative population, to which she has hitherto submitted, and one which will augment her proportion of

the revenue greatly beyond its present amount ; whilst Lower Canada could not fail most strenuously to oppose any other basis of division, tending to reduce still more what she considers to be even at present less than she is entitled to retain ; and it is stated in the Report of the Arbitrator of the Upper Province, appointed in the year 1836, "that in Lower Canada, many persons think, that it actually despoils that Province of her lawful revenue ; whilst in Upper Canada, an impression extensively prevails, that the share assigned to the latter, at each succeeding arbitration, is less than her just proportion." The difficulty of adjusting the scale by arbitration therefore, arising from these conflicting claims, will shortly become so great, as only to be settled by the power of the strongest party.

Another serious source of interprovincial irritation and disagreement, arises from the indifference manifested by the French Canadians in general, to the progressive prosperity and settlement of Lower Canada, and especially from the disinclination on the part of the Assembly of Lower Canada, to co-operate with the Legislature of the Upper Province, in the magnificent improvements now in progress, at the expense of the latter, in the great channel of communication common to both, which, if completed through their contemplated extent, must produce the greatest commercial advantages to both Provinces.

The enlarged views of the inhabitants of Upper Canada have boldly extended beyond their own time into distant years, and beyond their own frontiers into the rich and productive new settlements of the western portion of the American Union ; but the great undertakings and increased facilities of communication, now in progress, as well as those in contemplation in Upper Canada, for the attraction of the trade of those fertile countries so rapidly growing into importance, will not only be rendered imperfect in their usefulness, but their anticipated advantages will become absolutely unavailing, from the want of a corresponding spirit in Lower Canada, to assist their advancement.

It must be freely admitted, that the adoption of any measure by Lower Canada, tending to throw obstacles in the way of the settlement and improvement of her Sister Province, must afford further occasion to interprovincial irritation ; and no Act of a Legislative character could have better answered its intended purpose, than the Lower Canada Passenger Act, the 6th Wil. IV. c. 13, which, under the speciously humane pretence, of creating a fund to defray the expense of medical assistance for sick emigrants, and of enabling indigent persons of that description to proceed to their place of destination, is a concealed Capitation Tax, by which not only emigration to Upper Canada from the United Kingdom is impeded, but even the inhabitant of that Province, returning to his home by the St. Lawrence, is liable to be taxed by an odious impost. This taxation, in so far as it regards the inhabitants of Upper Canada, is at variance with the spirit of the Canada Trade Act, and the constitutional rights of His Majesty's subjects residing in that Province.

By the same Imperial Act, it is declared that "the division of the Province of Quebec, into the two Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, was intended for the common benefit of His Majesty's subjects residing within both of the newly constituted Provinces, and not in any manner to obstruct the intercourse, or prejudice the trade to be carried on, by the inhabitants of any part of the late Province of Quebec, with Great Britain or with other countries," and that "it was expedient, that the productions of the Province of Upper Canada, should be permitted to be exported without being made subject, by any Act of the Province of Lower Canada either directly or indirectly, to duties or impositions on their arrival in that Province, or in passing through the waters thereof," wherefore it was therein enacted, that "all boats and other craft belonging to His Majesty's subjects, coming from the Province of Upper Canada, into the Province of Lower Canada, not laden with the productions of any foreign country, should be allowed freely to pass into and through the said Province of Lower

Canada, and should not be subject to any rate, tax, duty or imposition, notwithstanding any law of Lower Canada to the contrary." Nevertheless, in contravention of the Imperial Act, the Legislature of Lower Canada by the Provincial Statute, 6th Will. IV. c. 24, has endeavoured to obstruct that interprovincial freedom of intercourse, by requiring "all boats and craft to enter and report at the port of Coteau du Lac, or at any other port or ports to be established in Lower Canada," and though this Statute is inoperative from the difficulties attending its enforcement, it is not the less unconstitutional, and at variance with the spirit of the Canada Trade Act.

It is conceived that the necessity of a Provincial Union has been demonstrated, not only from the separate views and dissimilar institutions, laws and feelings of the two Provinces, but also from the causes of collision existing between them, arising from the unwarrantable interference of Lower Canada, with the chartered rights and privileges of her Sister Province, by obstructing the freedom of interprovincial intercourse between them; by impeding the settlement of Upper Canada, from the imposition of taxes upon emigrants from the Mother Country arriving at the only sea-ports of the Provinces; by depriving Upper Canada of her fair proportion of revenue, for her consumption of dutiable goods imported into the Lower Province; by checking the growing prosperity of Upper Canada, from a culpable disinclination or an absolute refusal to assist in the improvements in progress in that Province, for increasing their mutual wealth and resources, and for facilitating their intercourse with each other and with the neighbouring Government; and from the unconstitutional assumption of a Legislative authority by Lower Canada over Upper Canada, in making laws affecting the well being and independence of the latter, in absolute violation of the rights and privileges guaranteed to her by the Constitutional Act as well as by the Canada Trade Act; and it is conceived that the more than questionable policy of delaying a measure of such vital importance,

must be rendered manifest, by the impossibility of applying a remedy at some distant period, after the Provinces, and especially Upper Canada, shall have much further advanced in numerical population and jealous independence, and when the present prejudices and irritations shall have become exasperated, into fierce dissension and hostile conflict between them.

Urgent as is the necessity of a Provincial Union, the best founded apprehensions are entertained, that without the adoption of a determinate and final legislation upon this important subject, the same causes of interprovincial collision and hostility, which now exist, will remain, and of course be more deeply felt by Upper Canada, as her hitherto rapid settlement, encouraged by her more liberal institutions and her better state of law, progressively advance; these latent causes of hostility will break forth at no distant period, when the sound policy of that final measure shall have been made evident, and the practicability of its being carried into effect, shall have been rendered almost hopeless. It is for this reason conceived, that an equality in the number of Representatives to the Joint or United Assembly, is of chief importance, to render the proposed Union effectual, whereby separate habits and prejudices will be overcome, national antipathies gradually removed, and the interests of the Provinces cherished and supported.

Nor is this equality of Provincial representation either unjust or inequitable, when it is considered, that the Provinces are Governments independent of each other; that the disparity between their aggregate populations, by no means great at present, is being reduced with so much celerity, that a few years will entirely remove that inequality; and, as regards Upper Canada in particular, that the general intelligence of her population is immeasurably superior to that of the numerical majority in Lower Canada, and that she already possesses the greater proportion of the trade of the Provinces, a proportion, which will continue to augment even beyond its present amount, from the wants and habits of her inhabitants, and their extremely rapid increase of numbers.

The actual population of the two Provinces, and their rate of increase, will be seen from the following details, which have been compiled from authentic sources:—

Tabular View of the Population of both Provinces, and its rate of Increase.

Rate of Increase in the General Population of Lower Canada, from 1760 to 1836, inclusive.

In 1760, the population of the undivided Province was 65000			
1784,	"	"	113000—Increase, 48000
1825,	"	of Lower Canada, by a }	450000 " 337000
		corrected Census, say.....	
1831,	"	the population of Lower Canada, by }	511917 " 61917
		Census of this year, was.....	
1836,	"	the population of Lower Canada, sup- }	600000 " 89081
		posed to be.....	
Increase in 6 years, from 1825 to 1831, of Lower Canada.....			
"	5	"	13½ per cent.
"	"	1831 to 1836,	17½ "
General rate from 1825 to 1836, of Lower Canada, 11 years,			
Average increase "	1760 to 1784,	"	33½ "
"	"	"	per annum..... 2000
"	" 1784 to 1825,	"	8219
"	" 1825 to 1831,	"	10154
"	" 1831 to 1836,	"	17816

From 1760 to 1836, the population has doubled itself 3½ times in Lower Canada. Taking the corrected Census returns in 1825, and those of 1831, and the generally supposed population in December, 1836, the population of Lower Canada would appear to double itself in twenty-nine years nearly.

Rate of Increase in the General Population of Upper Canada, from the year 1824 to 1836, inclusive.

In 1824.....	149301		
1825.....	156886	—Increase,	7515
1826.....	164703	"	7815
1827.....	175128	"	10425
1828.....	186345	"	11217
1829.....	196704	"	10359
1830.....	211569	"	14863
1831.....	234681	"	23314
1832.....	260994	"	26311
1833.....	296870	"	35878
1834.....	320735	"	23865
1835.....	346165	"	25430
1836.....	375000	"	28835
Average increase from 1824 to 1836, per annum.....			
"	"	1828 to 1832,	18661
"	"	1832 to 1836,	29212
General average increase " 1824 to 1836, "			
			18712

Comparing the Census of 1824 with that of 1833, and that of 1828 with that of 1836, it appears that the population of Upper Canada has of late doubled in about nine years, which, compared with the population of Lower Canada, is in the proportion of less than one-third.

The general average increase of Lower Canada, per annum, from 1825 to 1836, is 16029—being less than the annual increase of Upper Canada by 2683.

Whilst the interests of the two Provinces are thus secured by an equal representation to the joint Assembly, the inhabitants of Lower Canada of British origin, in the seigniorial parts of the Province, claim protection for their rights as British subjects in general, and in particular for a participation in those political privileges which were granted to all the inhabitants of Lower Canada, by the Constitutional laws of the Province.

By the Provincial Act 9th Geo. IV. c. 73, for the better division of the Counties of the Province, the seigniorial portions of Lower Canada, in which the settlers of British origin had principally effected settlements, were sedulously united in divisions of Counties with those in which the French inhabitants were the most numerous, by which means the inhabitants of British origin, in those parts of Lower Canada, have been altogether excluded from the enjoyment of any electoral rights. They claim, therefore, a more just and proper County division, by which they may be secured in a participation of those political privileges, which are at present enjoyed in the seigniorial portions of the Province—by the French Canadian inhabitants alone.

By the Statute last referred to, thirty-seven Counties return two Representatives each, and three return one each to the Provincial Legislature: of these Counties, five are included in that portion of the Province, denominated the Eastern Townships, which being settled almost entirely by inhabitants of British origin, return Members of that race, but in the remainder, the inhabitants of French origin preponderate so greatly, that the representation is almost exclusively French Canadian, or in support of French Canadian views.

The Provincial representation of Lower Canada is at present ninety Members, of whom about one-eighth, or eleven in number, represent the wants of the inhabitants of British origin, a minority, whose opinions pass as unheeded, as their presence in the Provincial Assembly is undesired by the Representative majority of French origin.

The census of 1831 estimated the whole Provincial population at 511,917, and stated the number of Roman Catholics to be 403,472, leaving, therefore, 108,445 to be Protestants, none of whom could be of French origin.

Of the Catholics, it is reasonably estimated, that 50,000 are of British origin, and the statement must therefore be satisfactory, that in 1831 the total number of inhabitants of British origin was 158,000, whilst that of French origin was 353,000.

Assuming, therefore, that the increase from 1831 to 1836 has raised the aggregate number to 600,000, the difference will be 89,081; but it is notorious that the fixed population of the Province not only suffered great mortality from Asiatic cholera, in the years 1832 and 1834, but that during that period, and especially during the past two years, it has been much reduced by the emigration of French Canadian youth to the territories of the United States, whilst it is equally well known from authentic sources, that in the period of five years abovementioned, 195,000 emigrants have arrived at Quebec from the Mother Country, of whom it is calculated that 35,000 have settled in Lower Canada; the natural increase of the whole Provincial population would thus only be 54,081, which divided between the two races, in the proportion of 158 to 353, would augment the number of inhabitants of French origin to nearly 390,000 souls, and those of British origin, to nearly 175,000, to which being added the amount of settlers by emigration, say 35,000, the total number of the latter would be 210,000, and the aggregate proportion of the two races therefore is as 210,000 to 390,000, in round numbers.

A cursory examination of the preceding calculation shows, that not only is the increase of the inhabitants of British origin in

Lower Canada extremely rapid, but that it is in a very much greater proportion than that of the inhabitants of French origin.

From the preceding details of the proportionate population of the two races, and the disproportionate number of Representatives elected by French Canadian majorities, the urgent necessity of a new division of Counties in Lower Canada will be made manifest. This has been prepared, and is submitted as containing as fair an adjustment of this grievance as the state of the Province will admit ; it has been compiled upon a careful calculation of territory and population, and has left the Counties, containing inhabitants of French origin, undisturbed, except where absolute necessity required the change. Explanatory statements, together with a map exhibiting the existing County divisions which have given occasion to so much complaint, as well as the proposed new divisions, will be found in the Appendix.

According to the principles adopted in the laws of both Provinces regulating the number of Representatives by a certain amount of population, which it is not proposed to alter, some of the proposed new Counties do not at present possess a sufficient population to return two Representatives each, but from the strong tendency of emigration towards them, it is believed that at the time when the Legislative Union shall be carried into effect, and a correct census taken of the County population, an object which must of necessity form one of the provisions of any Union Bill, they all, with the exception of three or four, which will still continue entitled to only one Representative, will have come within the provisions of the law entitling them to two Representatives each.

It must also be observed that the general trade of the Province is carried on almost exclusively by the Colonists of British origin. The French Canadian inhabitants have never had much share in it, and the general indisposition evinced by them to commercial pursuits, has almost become an anti-commercial spirit. The inhabitants of British origin have always formed, and will continue to form the commercial part of the society, and possessing the superiority of commercial wealth, enterprise and intelligence,

must always command a superiority in this respect. Some French Canadian institutions of a commercial character, have been lately formed, but their extent does not impugn the general principle above stated; these exceptions go to establish the correctness of the observation, which may be further confirmed by reference to the following statement of the amounts of stock in the public undertakings of the District of Montreal, held by the inhabitants of the two races:—

	CAPITAL.		SHARES.	BRITISH.	FRENCH.
1. Stock of the Bank of Montreal.....	£250,000	.....	5,000	£247,400	£2,600
2. Do. of City Bank..	200,000	.....	8,000	192,805	7,200
3. Do. of Champlain & St. Lawrence Railroad Company....	50,000	.....	1,000	49,150	850
4. Do. Montreal Water Works....	70,000	.....	80	70,000	.....
5. Do. of St. Lawrence Steamboat Comp'y.	65,000	.....	48	61,615	3,385
6. Do. Montreal Steam Tow Boat Company	40,200	present value.	710	38,508	1,682
7. Do. Ottawa and Rideau Forwarding Company.....	33,190	"	1,172	32,482	708
8. Do. St. Lawrence Steamboat and Mail Coach Company...	25,000	"	1,000	25,000	.....
9. Do. Montreal Gas Works.....	20,000	.....	1,000	19,500	600
10. Do. St. Ann Market	15,000	cost paid	....	13,575	1,925
11. Do. of other Steam Boats and capital invested in the Forwarding establishments on the Saint Lawrence, above & below Montreal....	50,000	.....	....	50,000	.....
	£818,890			£819,940	£18,950
FRENCH CANADIAN INSTITUTIONS.					
1. Stock of Mutual Insurance Company..	40,000	.....	....	16,281	23,719
2. Do. Banque du Peuple—People's Bank	80,000	supported.	....	30,000	50,000
	£938,890			£866,221	£92,669

This indisposition manifested to commercial pursuits, by the inhabitants of French origin, materially affects the inter-Provincial trade, injures the general trade of the Provinces with Great Britain and Ireland, and will force much of the British shipping employed in it to other shores. The evil effects are even at present being exhibited in Upper Canada, where a desire has been manifested to obtain other channels of communication than the St. Lawrence, for the supply of the necessities, and the disposal of the surplus produce of that Province; and unless prevented by an early adoption of the proposed Legislative Union, the sea-ports of the United States, and especially New York, will become the great marts of the trade of Upper Canada; indeed an application to the Government of the United States was lately made by a number of individuals engaged in commerce in that Province, praying that goods for Upper Canada might be landed at New York free of duty.

It is likewise suggested, that the expediency of establishing a Quorum for the United Legislature, is also evident from the experience of the past Sessions of the Assembly of Lower Canada, in which the Quorum is forty-five out of ninety Members: so large a number has been found to be utterly incompatible with, as it is altogether unnecessary for, the faithful discharge of the public duty intrusted to this branch of the Legislature. It was established to meet the views of certain influential leaders of the Assembly, and has frequently been employed for party purposes, the well-timed and concerted departure of a few Members having entirely put a stop to all legislation, however necessary or desirable. To obviate occurrences of a similar nature in the joint Assembly, it becomes imperatively necessary to make a provision in the Union Bill, by which such a Quorum will be established as may enable the United Legislature freely to accomplish the objects of its Constitution.

Another requirement essentially necessary to be provided by the Union Bill, is a proper qualification for the Members of the United Assembly: the wisdom of the provision has been foreseen

in Upper Canada, whose Representatives are required to be possessed of a certain amount of freehold estate; whereas the want of such a provision in Lower Canada, has been the fruitful source of much of the evil and injury inflicted upon the Province, by the theoretical and unfounded pretensions of the popular branch of her Legislature.

The interests of both Provinces having been thus secured by an equal representation from each, it is of absolute necessity that the political rights of the inhabitants of British origin in Lower Canada should be likewise secured: on the one hand, their great and increasing numbers, their commercial enterprize and perseverance, their untiring efforts to ensure the prosperity and improvement of the Province, their ardent feelings of attachment to the Mother Country, their hearty desire to continue the Provincial connexion with the Parent State, and their sincere disposition to preserve the essentials of the present Constitution of the Provinces, whilst on the other hand, the unwearied endeavours of the French Canadians to destroy that Constitution and separate that connexion, to neutralize those feelings of attachment and impede those efforts of improvement, to abate that commercial spirit and prevent that increase of British population, and finally, effectually to annihilate the political rights of the inhabitants of British origin, call loudly for the protection of this portion of His Majesty's loyal Colonists, who claim as British subjects an equal share of political privileges with their brethren of French origin.

The Legislative Union of the Provinces therefore, coupled with an equality of representation from each, with a new County division in Lower Canada, by which the inhabitants of British origin may obtain a fair proportion in the Provincial representation, and with the establishment of a proper quorum for the United Assembly, and a sufficient qualification for its Members, appears to be the only measure by which the continued peace, welfare and good government of the Provinces can be insured, their connexion with the Parent State preserved, and a dismemberment of the Empire prevented.

We therefore most respectfully request your co-operation and assistance in forwarding the measure which we have the honour of submitting for your support and approval.

Geo. A. H. Hall
Chairman

MONTREAL, March 23 1837.

APPENDIX.

Division of the Province of Lower Canada into Counties for the Election of Members to the House of Assembly.

<i>District of Montreal.</i>	<i>Extent in Square Miles</i>	<i>Ascertained Waste Lands</i>
1. The County of OTTAWA shall contain the Seigniorie of La Petite Nation, the Township of Lochaber and its augmentation or Gore, the Townships of Buckingham, Derry, and Ripon, and the territory in the rear thereof, to the north-west line of the County of Kilkenny, but not including Portland and its rear, besides waste lands.....	635	....
2. The County of HULL shall contain the Townships of Templeton, Hull, Eardley, Portland, Wakefield, Washer, and the territory in the rear extending to the north-west line of the County of Kilkenny, besides waste lands.....	620	....
3. The County of CLARENDON shall contain the Townships of Onslow, Bristol, Clarendon, Litchfield, Mansfield, Huddersfield, and the territory in the rear, to the north-west line of the County of Kilkenny, and on the north-west and along the north bank of the River Ottawa to the boundary of the Province, besides waste lands..... The waste lands in the Counties of Ottawa, Hull, and Clarendon, contain upwards of 30,000 square miles.	534	....
4. The County of CHATHAM shall contain the Seigniorie of Argenteuil, the Township of Grenville and its augmentation, Chatham, Chatham-Gore, Wentworth, Harrington, Arundel, Howard, and the territory in the rear until the line between the Counties of Ottawa and Chatham meets the north-west line of the County of Kilkenny, including some waste lands.....	728	...
5. The County of TERREBONNE shall contain the Seigniories of Lac des Deux Montagnes, Mille Isles, Riviere du Chene, Blainville, Desplaines, and Terrebonne, and their augmentations, the Isle Jesus and Isle Bizarre.....	563	
6. The County of L'ASSOMPTION shall contain the Seigniories of Lachenaye, L'Assomption and St. Sulpice.....	376	....
7. The County of BERTHIER, as it now is, less the Township of Kildare and its rear.....	8348	7839
8. The County of KILKENNY shall contain the Townships of Abercrombie, Kilkenny, Rawdon, Kildare, Wexford, Cherisey, and the territory in the rear thereof, parallel to the side line north-westerly, to the boundary of the Province, besides waste lands.....	518	....

<i>District of Montreal, (continued.)</i>	<i>Extent in Square Miles</i>	<i>Ascertained Waste Lands</i>
9. The County of CHAMBLY shall contain the Counties of Chamby and Vercheres, formed into one County.....	409	....
10. The County of LAPRAIRIE shall contain the Counties of Laprairie and Acadie, formed into one County.....	488	....
11. The County of BEAUHARNOIS, as it now is.....	717	....
12. The County of VAUDREUIL, as it now is, including Isle Perrot.....	330	....
13. The County of RICHELIEU shall contain the present County of Richelieu, also the Seigniories of Bourchemin and De Ramsay.....	473	....
14. The County of ROUVILLE shall contain the Seigniories of St. Hyacinthe, Rouville, Chamby-East, Monnoir and its augmentation, and Bleury.....	683	....
15. The County of MISSISQUOI shall contain the Townships of Farnham, Stanbridge, and Dunham, and the Seigniories of St. Armand, Sabrevois, Foucault, and Noyan.....	421	....
16. The County of SHEFFORD shall contain the Townships of Milton, Roxton, Ely, Granby, Shefford, and Stukely.....	602	....
17. The County of BROMS shall contain the Townships of Sutton, Broms, Pottou, and Bolton, being west of the Lake Memphramagog.....	420	....
18. The County of STANSTAD shall contain the Townships of Stanstead, Hatley, Barnston, Barford, and Compton, being east of the Lake Memphramagog.....	458	....
19. The County of MONTREAL as it now is, and also the Isle Bourdon.....	197	....
City of MONTREAL—West Ward— two Members.....	....	....
City of MONTREAL—East Ward— two Members.....	....	....
Town of WILLIAM HENRY—one Member.....	....	....
<i>District of Three Rivers.</i>		
20. The County of ST. MAURICE as it now is.....	9810	9386
21. The County of CHAMPLAIN, as it now is, besides waste lands.....	783	....
22. The County of YAMASKA shall be bounded on the N.W. by the River St. Lawrence, on the east by the River Becancour, on the south by the Counties of Drummond and Blandford hereinafter described, and on the S.W. by the County of Richelieu, and shall comprehend the present County of Yamaska, the Seigniories of Nicolet, Rocquetaillade, Godefroi, that part of the Seigniorie of Becancour west of the River Becancour, and the whole tract of country included within the said limits.....	459	....

<i>District of Three Rivers, (continued.)</i>	<i>Extent in Square Miles</i>	<i>Ascertained Waste Lands</i>
23. The County of LOTBINIERE shall be bounded on the N. E. by the S. W. boundary line of the Seigniorie of St. Croix, on the S. E. by the Townships of Nelson and Somerset, on the south-west by the Townships of Blandford and Maddington, on the west by the River Becancour, and on the N. W. by the River St. Lawrence; which County so bounded comprises the Seigniories of Lotbiniere, St. Jean D'Eschailions, and their augmentations, St. Pierre les Becquets, Gentilly, Cournoyer, that part of the Seigniorie of Becancour east of the Becancour River, and all the tract of country included within the said limits.....	453	.....
24. The County of DRUMMOND shall contain the Townships of Upton, Grantham, Wickham, Durham, Acton, Wendover, Simpson and Kingsey.....	827	.....
25. The County of BLANDFORD shall contain the Townships of Aston, Horton, Bulstrode, Stanfold, Warwick, Arthabaska, Maddington and Blandford.....	767	.....
26. The County of SHERBROOKE shall contain the Township of Melbourne, Brompton, Orford, Ascot, Stoke and Westbury.....	588	.....
27. The County of ENFIELD shall contain the Townships of Shipton, Tingwick, Chester, Windsor, Wotton, Ham and its augmentation, and Wolfstown and its augmentations.....	808	.....
28. The County of MIDDLESEX shall contain the Townships of Dudswell, Weedon, Garthby, Bury, Lingwick, Stratford, Whitton, Adstock, Hampden and Marston.....	1041	.....
29. The County of WORCESTER shall contain the Townships of Eaton, Newport, Ditton, Chessham, that part of Clinton west of Arnold River, Stanhope, Clifton, Auckland, Emberton, Croydon, Hereford and Drayton..... The Town of SHERBROOKE—two Members. The Town of THREE RIVERS—two Members, as now represented.	828	.....
<i>District of Quebec.</i>		
30. The County of MEGANTIC shall contain the Townships of Somerset, Nelson, Halifax, Inverness, Leeds, Ireland and its augmentation, and also that tract of country adjoining thereto, bounded on the N.E. by the County of Beauce, and on the north by the County of Dorchester, which said tract comprises the Seigniorie of St. Giles, and part of St. Croix, and all the tract of country included within the said limits.....	892	.....

Ascertained
Waste Lands

9386

<i>District of Quebec, (continued.)</i>	<i>Extent in Square Miles</i>	<i>Ascertained Waste Lands</i>
31. The County of DEVON shall contain the Townships of Thetford, Broughton, Colaine, Tring, Winslow, Ouellet, Shelme, Gayhurst and Dorset.....	799	....
32. The County of DORCHESTER shall be bounded on the N.W. by the River St. Lawrence, on the N.E. by the County of Bellechasse, on the S. E. by the County of Beauce, on the south by a boundary line to be drawn from the north-west angle of the Seignior of St. Giles to the north-east angle of the Township of Nelson, and on the S. W. by the N. E. boundary of the Seignior of Lotbiniere; which County so bounded shall comprise the Seignior of Lauzon, Tilly or St. Antoine, Gaspé, Desplaines, Bonsecours and St. Croix, and part of their augmentations, and all the tract of country included within the said limits.....	474	....
33. The County of BEAUCHE shall contain the Seignior of Joliette, Saint Etienne, Saint Mary, Saint Joseph, Vaudreuil, Aubert Gallion, Aubin De Lisle and the Townships of Frampton, Cranbourne and Watford.....	807	....
34. The County of WOBURN shall contain the Townships of Jersey, Marlow, Risborough, Spalding, Ditchfield, Woburn, and that part of Clinton east of Arnold River.....	1478	....
35. The County of BELLECHASSE, as it now is....	1775	1202
36. The County of L'ISLET, as it now is....	3044	2608
37. The County of KAMOURASKA, as it now is....	4320	3891
38. The County of RIMOUSKI, as it now is....	8840	7554
39. The County of PORTNEUF, as it now is....	8640	8068
40. The County of QUEBEC, as it now is....	14240	13780
City of QUEBEC—Upper Town, } —two Members..... } as now re- City of QUEBEC—Lower Town, } presented. —two Members..... }	....	....
41. The County of MONTMORENCI shall contain the present County of Montmorenci, 7469, and also the Island and present County of Orleans, 69.....	7538	6820
42. The County of SAGUENAY, as it now is....	72700	72123
<i>District of Gaspé.</i>		
43. The County of BONAVENTURE, as it now is....	4108	....
44. The County of GASPE as it now is, 3188, with the Magdalen Islands, 93	3281	...

NOTE. The Counties having boundaries on Rivers and Lakes, shall include all the Islands nearest thereto, and in whole or in part fronting the same, unless otherwise expressly stated.

MONTREAL, March 23, 1837.

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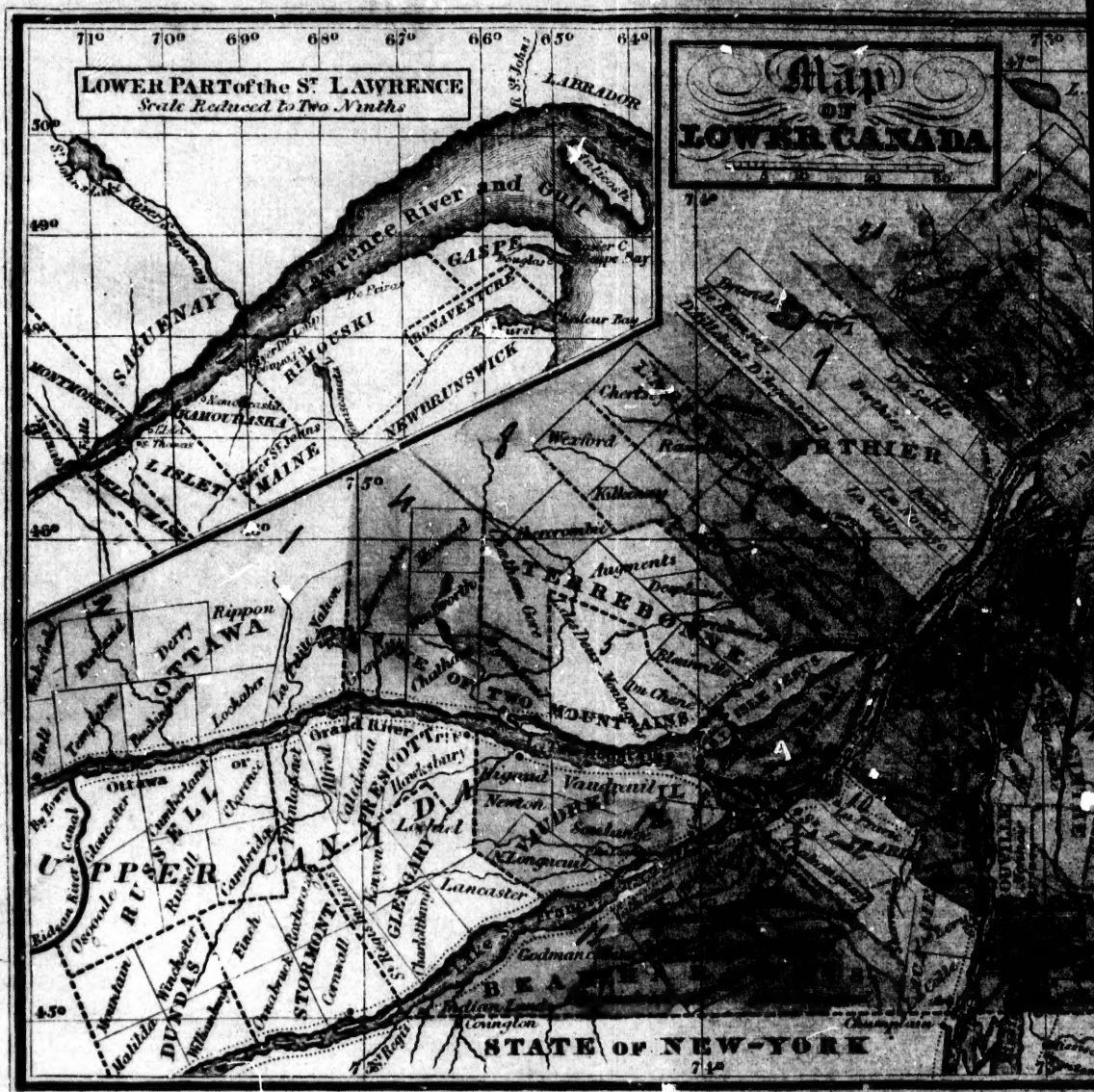
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Cart of Kings Bench, for the District of S. Francis



Entered according to Act of Provincial Legislature, in the Year 1835, by Walton & Gaylord



atton & Gaylord in the Clerk's Office of the Court of Kings Bench for the District of S^t. Francis